

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 to 20. (cancelled)

1 Claim 21. (new) A plug-connectable vacuum cleaner pipe
2 arrangement comprising a sleeve part which forms a socket into
3 which a pipe insertion end can be axially inserted in an insertion
4 direction and which can be held in a snap-locked condition
5 releasably by locking means which on a side of the sleeve part is
6 comprised of a locking body movable on the sleeve part and on the
7 side of the pipe insertion end is formed by a detent recess
8 provided in the pipe insertion end in which the detent body
9 releasably engages, an actuating slider is axially shiftable on the
10 sleeve part and which has a locking surface and is displaceable in
11 two axially opposite axial directions starting from a neutral axial
12 position of the locking surface against respective spring restoring
13 forces, the locking surface holding the locking body in a locked
14 position in the neutral axial position of the locking surface and
15 with each shift out of the neutral axial position into an unlocking
16 position being displaced into an unlocking position, an end of the
17 tube insertion end having a first control surface which upon
18 insertion of the tube insertion end into the socket moves the
19 locking body together with the sleeve part relative to the locking
20 surface in a pipe insertion direction, thereby unlocking the
21 locking body and freeing it for releasable snap locking into the
22 detent recess which is juxtaposed with a second control surface

23 which, upon withdrawal of the tube insertion end from the socket
24 moves the locking body together with the sleeve part relative to
25 the locking surface in a withdrawal direction and thereby
26 disengages the actuating slider has a radially inwardly projecting
27 substantially claw-like formation extending toward the sleeve part
28 with a claw opening receiving a rod spring held on the sleeve part
29 at a spring region deflectable in both opposite axial directions.

1 Claim 22. (new) A plug-connectable vacuum cleaner pipe
2 arrangement comprising a sleeve part which forms a socket into
3 which a pipe insertion end can be axially inserted in an insertion
4 direction and which can be held in a snap-locked condition
5 releasably by locking means which on a side of the sleeve part is
6 comprised of a locking body movable on the sleeve part and on the
7 side of the pipe insertion end is formed by a detent recess
8 provided in the pipe insertion and in which the detent body
9 releasably engages, an actuating slider is axially shiftable on the
10 sleeve part and which has a locking surface and is displaceable in
11 two axially opposite axial directions starting from a neutral axial
12 position of the locking surface against respective spring restoring
13 forces, the locking surface holding the locking body in a locked
14 position in the neutral axial position of the locking surface and
15 with each shift out of the neutral axial position into an unlocking
16 position being displaced into an unlocking position, an end of the
17 tube insertion end having a first control surface which upon
18 insertion of the tube insertion end into the socket moves the

19 locking body together with the sleeve part relative to the locking
20 surface in a pipe insertion direction, thereby unlocking the
21 locking body and freeing it for releasable snap locking into the
22 detent recess which is juxtaposed with a second control surface
23 which, upon withdrawal of the tube insertion end from the socket
24 moves the locking body together with the sleeve part relative to
25 the locking surface in a withdrawal direction and thereby
26 disengages the detent body forming a tongue like component cut out
27 of the sleeve part and with a tongue root is adjacent an end of the
28 sleeve part

1 Claim 23. (new) A plug-connectable vacuum cleaner pipe
2 arrangement comprising a sleeve part which forms a socket into
3 which a pipe insertion end can be axially inserted in an insertion
4 direction and which can be held in a snap-locked condition
5 releasably by locking means which on a side of the sleeve part is
6 comprised of a locking body movable on the sleeve part and on the
7 side of the pipe insertion end is formed by a detent recess
8 provided in the pipe insertion and in which the detent body
9 releasably engages, an actuating slider is axially shiftable on the
10 sleeve part and which has a locking surface and is displaceable in
11 two axially opposite axial directions starting from a neutral axial
12 position of the locking surface against respective spring restoring
13 forces, the locking surface holding the locking body in a locked
14 position in the neutral axial position of the locking surface and
15 with each shift out of the neutral axial position into an unlocking

16 position being displaced into an unlocking position, an end of the
17 tube insertion end having a first control surface which upon
18 insertion of the tube insertion end into the socket moves the
19 locking body together with the sleeve part relative to the locking
20 surface in a pipe insertion direction, thereby unlocking the
21 locking body and freeing it for releasable snap locking into the
22 detent recess which is juxtaposed with a second control surface
23 which, upon withdrawal of the tube insertion end from the socket
24 moves the locking body together with the sleeve part relative to
25 the locking surface in a withdrawal direction and thereby
26 disengages the first control surface being conically inwardly
27 convergent over at least part of the periphery, said end of the
28 tube insertion end, a side surface of said detent recess forming
29 said second control surface.

Claim 24. (new) The plug-connectable vacuum cleaner pipe arrangement according to claim 23 wherein the actuating slider has a locking projection formed with the locking surface and projecting radially toward an outer surface of the sleeve part.

1 Claim 25. (new) The plug-connectable vacuum cleaner
2 pipe arrangement according to claim 24 wherein the locking
3 projection radially tapers toward the sleeve part and has a
4 frustopyramidal cross section whereby the roof surfaces of the
5 locking projection forms the locking surface and the locking

6 surface is inclined in both opposite axial directions side flanks
7 forming slide guide surfaces for the locking body.

1 Claim 26. (new) The plug connectable vacuum cleaner
2 pipe arrangement according to claim 24 wherein the actuating slider
3 forms a collar surrounding the sleeve part.

1 Claim 27. (new) The plug connectable vacuum cleaner
2 pipe according to claim 26 wherein the pipe insertion end has a
3 radially outwardly projecting axial guide rib and the
4 sleeve part has on an inner shell surface an axial guide groove
5 corresponding to the axial guide rib.

1 Claim 28. (new) The plug connectable vacuum cleaner
2 pipe according to claim 27 wherein the detent recess is formed as a
3 radially inwardly projecting cup-shaped recess oriented toward the
4 pipe center.

1 Claim 29. (new) The plug connectable vacuum cleaner
2 pipe according to claim 28 wherein the cup shaped recess has a
3 generally frustoconical cross sectional contour.

1 Claim 30. (new) The plug connectable vacuum cleaner
2 pipe according to claim 29 wherein the detent body forms a locking
3 counter surface juxtaposed with the locking surface of the
4 actuating slider.

1 Claim 31. (new) The plug connectable vacuum cleaner
2 pipe according to claim 29 wherein the detent body forms slide
3 guide counter surfaces corresponding to the inclined slide guide
4 surfaces of the locking projection of the actuating slider inclined
5 in the two mutually opposite axial directions.
